



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **1763**

Serial No.: **10/615,381**

Examiner: **Richard R. BUEKER**

Filed: **July 9, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1378

For. **SURFACE TREATING PROCESS, SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS,
VAPOR-DEPOSITING MATERIAL, AND RARE EARTH METAL-BASED
PERMANENT MAGNET WITH SURFACE TREATED**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 20, 2006

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-captioned patent application. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows: